

CHIP CONNECTION METHOD AND DEVICE**DESCRIPTION****TECHNICAL DOMAIN AND PRIOR ART**

The technical domain of this invention is microelectronics or optoelectronics and more specifically manufacturing of microelectronic and optoelectronic components and their external connection means (inputs/outputs).

The invention may be applied to all sorts of devices requiring a dense interconnection of several electronic chips on a small area interconnection support.

One application is to bring several components to put them side by side or adjacent, for example for large imagers or large screens. For example, the invention can also be used to put components side by side with a minimum loss of pixels limited to one side.

Another application relates to putting ink injection chips side by side for printers or other electronic components.

For example, when it is required to make very large radiation detection matrices (visible, IR, UV, X, gamma radiation, millimetric radiation, etc....) or emission or imagery matrices (screens, LED emitting matrices, VCSEL laser, etc.), several elementary components 2 are put side by side and interconnected on a common support 4 (like paving), as illustrated in Figures 1A and 1B.

An attempt is made to minimize lost areas (shown cross-hatched in Figure 1A) located between the elementary components 2.

Each elementary component needs external
5 physical « electrical inputs » 6 to its active face 8 (Fig. 1B).

These inputs generally originate from the interconnection substrate 4 onto which the components are transferred.

10 Therefore the inputs must transit from the upper face 8 of each component to the support 4.

As illustrated in Figures 1B and 1C, this transit is usually made using solder wires 6 soldered firstly to thermocompression pads 10 on the front of
15 the component, and secondly onto the interconnection support 4.

The side areas necessary for this operation (cross-hatched areas in Figure 1A) are very large and in particular cause the loss of a significant number of
20 detection or emission pixels in areas near the contact boundary.

Document US.2002/0160598 describes a method of interconnection passing through a silicon chip, to reduce the size of these lost areas.

25 However, this technique is extremely complex and it can only be used on complete silicon circuit wafers (200mm, 300mm). Furthermore, this technique is unsuitable for production on a single chip cut out from a wafer or substrate.

30 Nor can such a technique be applied, for example, to foundry batches shared by several users.

PRESENTATION OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to an electronic device comprising:

- an active element or a circuit
5 comprising a first and a second face, the first face being provided with electrical connection means,

- an element or a circuit, or transfer elements, comprising a first face and a second face and being assembled to the second face of the active
10 element through its first face, and electrical connection means on its second face,

- a preferably wire connection between the electrical connections of the active element or the circuit and the transfer element.

15 Since connections are provided on the transfer element, a connection may be made between the first face of the active element and the second face of the transfer element, for example using a wire connection. A « wire connection » means any connection
20 using an electrical wire or an electrical strip cable.

Therefore, there is no direct connection to be made between the active element and an assembly circuit or a semiconductor wafer. The transfer element can be fixed on such a wafer or on such an assembly
25 circuit.

The width of the transfer element along a direction perpendicular to one side of the active element on which or close to which electrical connection means are provided, is less than the width
30 of the active element itself. Preferably, the active

element is the only element that is transferred onto or is fixed to the transfer element.

This smaller width makes it possible to bring a wire connection from the first face of the active element towards the second face of the transfer element or circuit, but below the active element.

This transfer element may be made of any material, for example silicon or ceramic. It may be configured as required, for example it may be provided with connection balls or pins or pads that can be interconnected, for example by a conducting anisotropic glue.

Furthermore, a device according to the invention can be manufactured using simple techniques with less expensive equipment than is normally used.

The circuit may comprise an electronic circuit, for example a semiconductor circuit such as a CMOS or CCD circuit, or an interconnections network, or a bipolar circuit.

Radiation detection or emission devices or means, and/or possibly mechanical or electromechanical devices or means, may be integrated into or hybridized onto the circuit or the electronic circuit. Examples of mechanical devices include MEMS (microelectromechanical systems), for example such as one or more micro-mirrors and/or bolometers and/or one or more force sensors. These electronic means or devices may be integrated into the circuit and/or hybridized on the first face of the circuit.

The invention also relates to an electronic system comprising a plurality of such devices. Each

transfer element in each of these devices is connected or fixed to a common substrate through connection balls or pins or pads.

The invention also relates to a method of manufacturing a device, for example an electronic device, comprising:

- the assembly of a circuit or an active circuit comprising a first and a second face, the first face being provided with means of making an electrical connection with a transfer element comprising a first face and a second face and electrical connection means on its second face, the assembly being made through its first face to the second face of the active element, the transfer element being designed to be assembled to another circuit or to a semiconductor wafer on the side of this second face,

- making a connection, preferably a wire connection, between the electrical connection means of the active element or circuit and the transfer element.

This method can also be used to make a protection layer for the connection.

Assembly of the circuit and the transfer element may include the formation of a layer of glue or a glue film or a glue strip or soldering means on one and/or the other of the two faces of the circuit and the transfer element to be assembled together.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

- Figures 1A to 1C show devices according to prior art,
- Figures 2A to 2D show the steps in a method according to the invention,

- Figure 3 shows an example embodiment of a device according to the invention,

- Figures 4A and 4B show assembled systems of devices according to the invention.

5 DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

A first embodiment of the invention is described with reference to figures 2A to 2D.

The component 20 to be interconnected through the rear face is provided with electrical
10 connection means 22, for example one or several thermocompression pads, on one of its sides. The thickness of the component is E2.

This component 20 is generally in the shape of a quadrilateral, as illustrated in figure 1A, with
15 its width L1 along a direction perpendicular to the side on which the connection means 22 are provided.

An intermediate or transfer element 24 is made separately, with thickness E1. This element 24 may for example be a single or multilayer ceramic, or a
20 printed circuit.

The shape of this intermediate element is usually similar to the shape of the component 20. Its width in a direction perpendicular to the side of the component 20 on which the connection means 22 are
25 located is equal to L2, and preferably $L2 < L1$.

It also comprises connection means, for example one or several pads 26, on one of its surfaces.

These pads may be connected to interconnection tracks that redistribute each pad 26 to
30 balls (BGA type connection) or pins 40, 42 (PGA type

connection) distributed over the surface of the element 24.

Thus, the intermediate or transfer element 24 can be assembled to another support such as a semiconductor circuit or wafer, on the side of this surface on which the connection means are located.

The component 20 and the intermediate element 24 are put side by side, with the connection means 22, 26 facing each other. A spacer 30 with width l greater than $E1 + E2$ can possibly be used to maintain a spacing of width l between the component 20 and the element 24 while the connection is being made.

The electrical connection wires 32 are then placed between the connection means of the component 20 and the connection means of the intermediate element 24.

The back face 34 of one of the two components is prepared for subsequent gluing or soldering, for example by depositing a layer of glue or solder or a dry film, or a double sided gluing strip, etc. In Figure 2B, the reference 36 denotes an example of a glue layer.

In the next step (figure 2C), the intermediate element is turned by 180° folding it down under the component 20 (advantageously after the spacer 30 has been eliminated) and the connection between the component 20 and the intermediate element 24 is terminated by cross linking of the deposited glue or remelting of the solder or another attachment mode.

The two initial elements are then bonded together, the new created component comprising

electrical inputs/outputs 40, 42 on the back face 43, for example distributed in two-dimensional space on the free face of element 24.

Therefore the wire connections 32 are
5 connected firstly to the top surface of the component 20, and secondly to the surface 43 of the element 24. Therefore, the ends of these connections on the element 24 are located in an area A located under the component 20 or delimited by this component 20. Therefore, each
10 wire 32 can pass close to the side or the edge 21 of the component 20. Therefore the lateral extension of the wire connection is much less than it was in prior art as illustrated in figure 1C.

It would be possible to shape the
15 connection wires (for example by pressing, etc.). The side passage of the wires can then be protected 44, for example by encapsulation, by gluing or by a deposit (for example of parylene).

Figure 3 illustrates one example
20 embodiment; it relates to the production of components for detection of photons, several of these components designed to be put side by side to form a detection matrix. For example, each elementary component may include 100*100 pixels each 200µm square (therefore
25 each with a surface area of 200µm X 200µm). A pixelized detection circuit 52 is hybridized onto a CMOS read circuit 50 mounted on an intermediate element 54 provided with connection means, for each component.

The first step is to make a « composite »
30 circuit composed of the CMOS circuit 50 and the intermediate element 54.

The CMOS circuit 50 is cut to $20\mu\text{m}$ from the edge of the active circuits on three sides and $80\mu\text{m}$ from the first active pixel on the fourth side on which the connection pads 53, for example thermocompression pads, are located. For example, the size of this circuit could be 20.04 mm by 20.1 mm .

A ceramic (Al_2O_3 or AlN ...) type of intermediate element 54 is provided with assembly means 58 for a printed circuit. For example, these means may be pins and they make the element 54 connectable and disconnectable. Connection pads 62 will be used to fix a connection wire 56 to electrically connect them to the pads 53.

The ceramic 54 is preferably smaller than the circuit 50, for example its size is $1.8\text{ mm} \times 1.8\text{ mm}$.

The steps described above are described with reference to figures 2A to 2D, using thicknesses E1 and E2 equal to $500\mu\text{m}$, a 1.1 mm wide shim 30, a $25\mu\text{m}$ connection wire 56 and a parylene deposit 44 for final coating of the wire 56.

The characteristics of the composite circuit will be as follows:

- on three sides: another circuit can be placed adjacent to this circuit at a distance of about $20\mu\text{m}$,

- on the side of the circuit 50 on which the wires 56 are located: another circuit can be placed adjacent to this circuit at a distance of about $130\mu\text{m}$: $80\mu\text{m}$ (width of connection pad 53) + $25\mu\text{m}$

(thickness of wire 56) + $15\mu\text{m}$ (clearance width) + $10\mu\text{m}$ (thickness of parylene).

Therefore, the active circuits can be put side by side on three of the four sides, at a minimum distance of $2 \times 20 = 40\mu\text{m}$, and on the other side at a minimum distance of $20 + 130 = 150\mu\text{m}$.

The active circuit 50 may for example be provided with connection balls 60 distributed at a pitch of $200\mu\text{m}$ on which a photon detection circuit 52 is deposited cutout so that it only loses 0.5 pixels on each of the four sides.

The detector circuit 52 passes above the wires 56. Thus, only one row of pixels is lost close to the junction in the region 57.

Therefore, another wire connection with a very limited lateral extension is made, the assembly means being brought to or located in the area A located under the component 50.

The next step is to make an assembly by the insertion of pins 58 in a support circuit or by soldering balls if balls are used instead of the pins 58.

The support circuit can be paved by simple insertion of elements like that shown in figure 3. Repairs are made by removing one defective element and then reinserting a new element.

Figures 4A and 4B show paving that can be obtained.

Figure 4A shows several elementary components 64, 66 and 68 of the type described above

with reference to figure 3, to be assembled on a circuit 70 or a silicon substrate.

Figure 4B shows a top view of components, for example detectors 72, each being assembled with a
5 corresponding intermediate element (shown in dashed lines), itself assembled to or fixed to a circuit or substrate 80 common to all detectors.

The invention limits losses in areas near the contact boundary, to a single row of pixels (namely
10 a dead area about 200 μ m wide). This numeric example ignores positioning tolerance conditions on the printed circuit.

According to the invention, an intermediate element can be transferred on the back face of a chip
15 and the chip inputs/outputs are connected to the back of the chip/intermediate element assembly. This facilitates the connection of this assembly and can increase the integration density.

Other elements can be associated with each
20 chip, for example hybridized on its front face.

The invention is applicable to the manufacture of large detectors, particularly infra-red detectors, bolometric detectors that can be put side by side, X-ray scanners or large gamma ray detectors.
25 Large emission screens can also be made.